

Message Text

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45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 101228Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1100

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8830

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XA, XB, XM, XF, EG

SUBJECT: CRITICISM OF SADAT

REF: STATE 214848

1. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR NASSER MAHMOUD HIGHLY GRATIFIED
BY OUR OFFER TO MAKE COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH TO FMG
ALONG LINES PROPOSED IN REFTEL.

2. MAHMOUD SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED SEVENTEEN (17) PAGE
TELEGRAM WHICH WOULD TAKE HIM "THREE DAYS" (SIC) TO
DECIPHER ON ANTIQUATED LETTER-BY-LETTER DECODING DEVICE
THAT DID NOT ALWAYS WORK. (HE SUGGESTED OUR FUTURE COLLAB-
ORATION WOULD BE FACILITATED IF A SMALL SLIVER OF US
AID TO ISRAEL COULD BE DIVERTED TO PROVIDE EGYPTIAN EMBASSIES
WITH EFFICIENT COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.) HE SURMISED THAT
TELEGRAM CONTAINED INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTACT FMG ON NEW
EGYPT-ISRAEL AGREEMENT. IT MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE HIM WITH
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RESPONSE HIS RECOMMENDATION OF WEEK AGO THAT SADAT SEND

PERSONAL CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO BRIGADIER MUHAMED.

3. MAHMOUD THOUGHT IT BEST THAT HE MAKE FIRST APPROACH TO MEA (OR PERHAPS HEAD OF STATE), TO BE FOLLOWED BY SUPPORTING PRESENTATION THAT I WOULD MAKE A DAY OR TWO THEREAFTER. HE MINIMIZED POSSIBILITY THAT MY PRESENTATION WOULD PLAY INTO HANDS OF NIGERIANS WISHING TO SEE SINISTER MEANING IN US-EGYPTIAN COLLABORATION. NIGERIA CAN BE EXPECTED TAKE BALANCED VIEW ON NEW AGREEMENT, ACCORDING MAHMOUD, WHO CITED PREVIOUS NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION WITH ISRAEL AND COOL REACTION TO LIBYAN VISIT TO LAGOS ON HEELS OF GOWON OVERTHROW.

4. MAHMOUD BELIEVES MERITS OF NEW AGREEMENT SPEAK PERSUASIVELY FOR THEMSELVES. HE SAID SUDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND KUWAIT ALREADY ON BOARD, WITH ALGERIAN SUPPORT PROBABLY SOON FORTHCOMING. TUNISIA NOT YET HEARD FROM BUT COULD BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT. JORDAN HAD ITS SPECIAL PROBLEMS, AND SYRIA, IRAQ AND LIBYA WOULD BE DIFFICULT. HIS GREATEST CONCERNS WERE THE PALESTINIANS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF TERRORISM SPONSORED BY QHADDAFI, "WHO IS A COMPLETE NUT." HE WAS BITTER ABOUT SOVIET ATTITUDES AND READ ME A PORTION OF A RECENT CAIRO NEWSPAPER REPORT OF A DESCRIPTION BY SADAT OF HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO DEAL WITH THE RUSSIANS COMPARED TO THE AMERICANS.

5. ACCORDING MAHMOUD, MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL SEE AGREEMENT AS MAJOR STEP FORWARD, AND HE KNOWS OF NONE (LIBYA EXCEPTED) THAT COULD BE EXPECTED ATTACK IT. BASED ON HIS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF NEW NIGERIAN REGIME, HE THINKS THERE WOULD BE FAIRLY GOOD POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FROM FMG IF HE AND I MAKE COORDINATED AGGROACH. I AGREE.

6. AS SOON AS MAHMOUD GETS HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM HOME FIGURED OUT, WE WILL TALK ABOUT NEXT STEPS.
EASUM

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